

Overview

- Definitions
- Deterrents
- Elements
- Active listening Skills
- Methods to enhance listening
- Methods to test understanding

Definitions

• Effective Listening is the listening to the words of the speaker and the meaning of the words.

• Active Listening is a process in which the listener takes active responsibility to understand the content and feeling of what is being said and then checks with the speaker to see if he/she heard what the speaker intended to communicate.

Deterrents to Effective/Active Listening

- Assuming in advance about the subject
- Mentally criticizing the speaker's delivery
- Getting over stimulated or over reacting
- Listening only to the facts
- Outlining everything
- Permitting the speaker to be inaudible.
- Avoid technical messages
- Overreacting to certain words or phrases
- Withdrawing attention/daydreaming

Elements to Effective/Active Listening

- Content: The subject the speaker is addressing.
- Feelings: The emotions the speaker has when discussing the subject.
- Process: The manner the speaker delivers the subject matter.
- Clarification: The ability of the individual listening to ask questions and to seek understanding of the subject matter.

Active Listening Skills

Check Attitude and Atmosphere

Keep the channel open and avoid short circuits

• Listening requires response from listener

Keep the door open

Methods for Improving Listening Skills

• Try to understand the intent and listen for main points.

Listen now clarify later.

• Concentrate on the message, not the person.

Analyze your reactions as you listen.

Methods to Test Understanding

Parroting

Paraphrasing

Clarifying

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